

SOUVENIR  
AMATEUR BILLIARD  
CHAMPIONSHIP.

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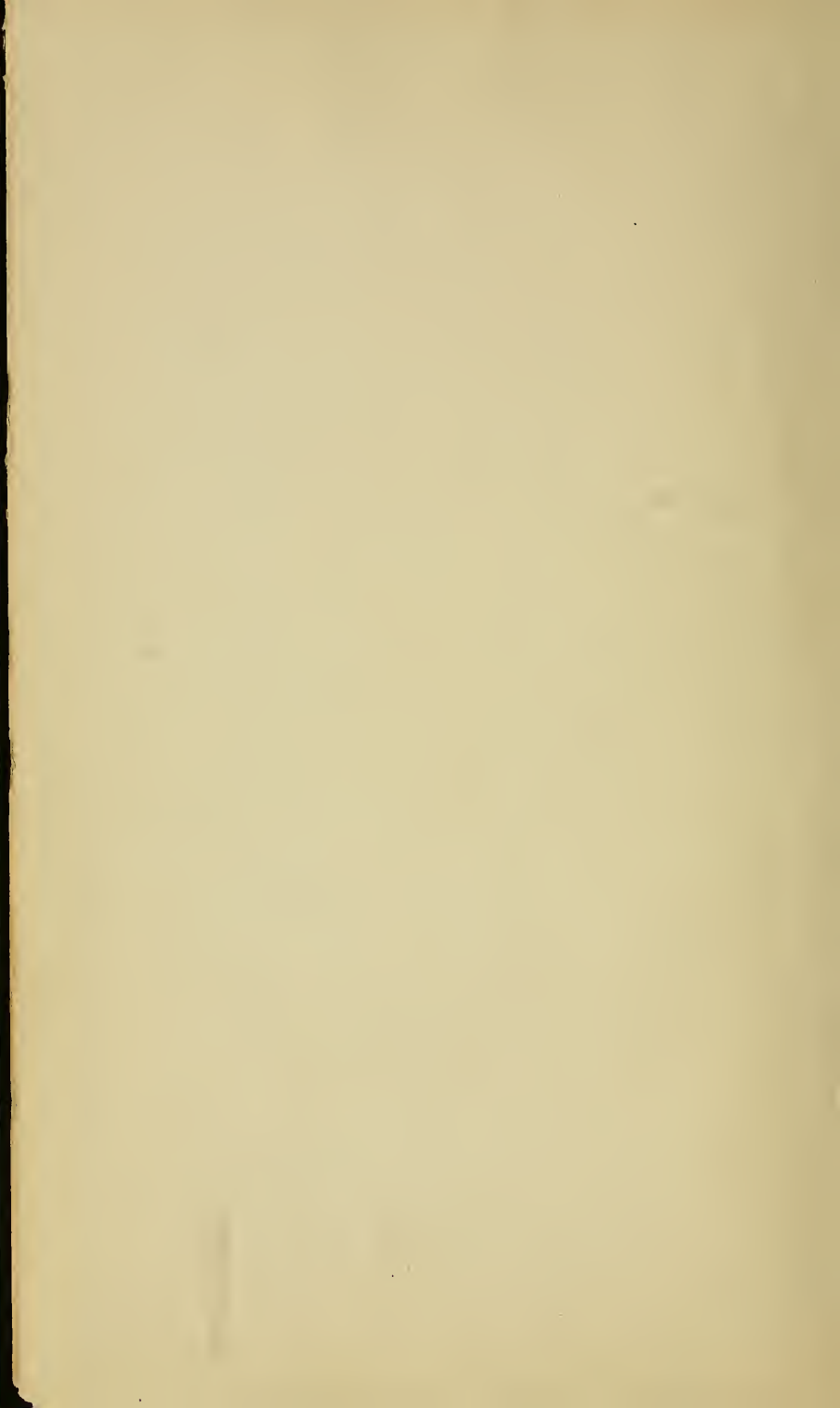


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CLUB HOUSE OF THE KNICKERBOCKER ATHLETIC CLUB  
MADISON AVENUE AND FORTY-FIFTH ST.  
NEW YORK CITY

AMATEUR  
BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIP  
OF AMERICA

(CLASS A)

SOUVENIR

OF

THE FIRST TOURNAMENT GIVEN UNDER  
THE AUSPICES OF THE AMATEUR ATH-  
LETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

HELD IN THE  
KNICKERBOCKER ATHLETIC CLUB  
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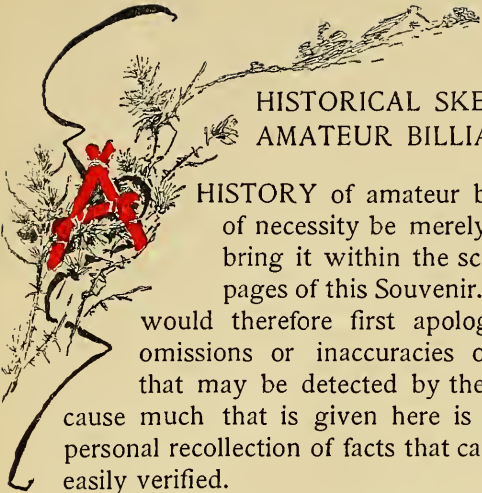




HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF  
AMATEUR  
BILLIARDS  
IN AMERICA.





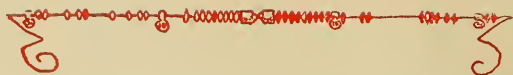


## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF AMATEUR BILLIARDS

HISTORY of amateur billiards must of necessity be merely a sketch to bring it within the scope of a few pages of this Souvenir. The writer would therefore first apologize for any omissions or inaccuracies of statement that may be detected by the reader; because much that is given here is purely from personal recollection of facts that cannot now be easily verified.

The first game of billiards that the writer ever played was upon a table six feet wide and twelve feet long, with six pockets, four balls, and a fast cushion. This was the customary outfit up to 1865; although soon after that date the size of the table was reduced to five and one-half by eleven feet and later to five by ten feet (the size used to-day in matches). The pockets were however retained for some time. Carom tables were introduced later.

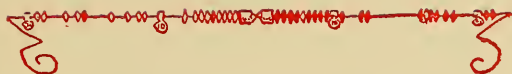
The carom shots were counted in those days, as well as the balls pocketed, according to the color of the balls. A carom on the two red balls counted three; one on a red and white ball counted two; a red ball in pocket counted three; and a white in pocket two. The usual game for amateurs was 34 points, and any one who could "run the game out" was a very skillful player.



When these facts are remembered, it would be surprising now to most amateurs to examine even the champion professional records of that date in comparison with those of the amateur to-day. Even after the pockets were barred, four balls were still used and the "push-shot" and crotching of the balls were allowed in all championship matches.

**GRADUAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF BILLIARDS**

A comparison of averages made by professionals under such conditions with those made to-day under vastly more difficult conditions is, however, liable to be misleading. The reader has no basis for the belief that such men as Phelan, Seereiter, Kavanagh, Crystal, Deery, Tieman and Golthwait would be to-day inferior players. Such is by no means the fact. The system of the game was vastly different then from that now in vogue. Until Vignaux first visited America, every skillful player made the cue-ball do most of the travelling; whereas the game of to-day is the one taught us by that famous French expert, in which the "dead-draw" holds the second ball and cue ball in close proximity, and the object ball is driven to return to them.



About 1865, my first recollections of great amateur players were formed. I can vividly recall the wonderful skill of Wm. McKay, Herman Aldrich, Mortimer Humphreys (later a professional), Walter Appleton, Fred Brittan, Wm. Cross, Chas. F. Spear, S. Rapalye, L. P. Norton, W. N. Weeks, John C. Eno and W. C. McCreery.

**BILLIARD  
AMATEUR EXPERTS  
OF YEARS AGO**

Most of these amateur experts are still living and have great billiard skill to-day. Additions were made later to this small list of prominent amateur experts. I distinctly remember when Wilson P. Foss, Orville Oddie, Walter Stanton, Arthur R. Townsend, Alexander Morten, G. Lee Knapp, George D. Clift, R. J. Maguinness, Andrew Miller, John McArthur, Jos. P. Knapp and Frank Dugro of New York; J. E. Soulé, George E. Hevner and G. A. Flanagan of Philadelphia; H. D. Jennings of Brooklyn; John A. Hendrick of New Haven; C. E. Ellison and Frank Rice of Chicago; Arthur Coste of New Orleans (subsequently a professional); F. Kraker of San Francisco; Frank Day of St. Louis, and many others who are prominent experts to-day first began to show skill at the "straight-rail" game before a balk-line was ever dreamed of.



In May, 1887, the Racquet and Tennis Club, of New York City, first conceived a National Amateur Championship tournament at "straight-rail" billiards. A valuable cup was first offered by the Club and later a second cup by Mr. Townsend of that Club—the latter on the condition that it should be won three times before it became the property of any contestant. The first cup was played for and won by Mr. Orville Oddie, in 1887, and the latter was won by him in two successive years (1888 and 1889). In 1890 it was won by default and became the personal property of Orville Oddie of New York. His grand averages of 1887, 1888 and 1889 were 11,  $7\frac{8}{11}$  and  $8\frac{4}{7}$ , respectively. No other contestant made in any year a grand average in these tournaments of six except one, viz., Arthur R. Townsend of New York. He made a grand average of  $7\frac{4}{7}$  in the tourney of 1889. The highest run made in the Racquet Club's contests was 195, by Oddie in the tourney of 1889; although that run and the highest average of Oddie were beaten in 1890 by A. R. Townsend in a tournament at "straight-rail" billiards given in Brooklyn under the auspices of Maurice Daly. In this tournament Townsend ran the game out with 257 and Frank A. Keeney ran 135 in one of the innings of the same game.





While the Racquet and Tennis Club's billiard committee were organizing their first tournament (early in 1887) the first effort was made to define an "amateur" at billiards.

A carefully drawn set of rules and regulations relating to amateur billiards was then prepared; largely through the efforts of the much lamented and enthusiastic billiard expert Walter Stanton (who was at that time chairman of the billiard committee). He was assisted in this work by Dudley Kavanagh, Maurice Daly, George F. Slosson and other well known professional billiardists whose experience enabled them to make valuable suggestions.

This set of rules and regulations is to-day the only one relating to amateur billiards. Pending further modification and possible alteration by a national body, it stands as the first important move toward preserving the purity of amateur billiards as a manly and athletic sport.

In 1883, professional players first began to play matches and tournaments with a balk-line (drawn upon the table in chalk) parallel to and *eight inches from the cushion*. The distance of the balk-line from the cushion was afterward gradually increased to ten, twelve and fourteen inches.

**THE  
BALK-LINE  
GAMES**



In 1890, the "straight-rail" game was abandoned by professional players after the phenomenal unfinished run of 2996 made by Schaefer against McCleery in San Francisco, Cal. Since that time most of the leading amateurs have also abandoned the "straight-rail" game; as runs from two to five hundred points in practice became possible with several of them.

In 1891, an amateur tournament at the 8-inch balk-line game was organized by Maurice Daly and played in his Brooklyn billiard hall. It was a handicap tourney. The winner was Mr. Samuel Erlich; Mr. Wm. Barnard was second, and Dr. H. D. Jennings was third. The highest run (76) was made by Jennings. The highest grand average (5.70) was made by Barnard, who conceded odds to all the other contestants.

In March, 1893, George F. Slosson of New York organized the first amateur tournament at the *14-inch balk-line game* (as far as any records go that are accessible to the writer). The contestants were Messrs. J. Byron Stark, A. B. Miller, J. M. Amory, the late Byron Stratton, Harry Dodd, George Moulton and A. L. Ranney. The games were played under standard regulations (250 points) without any handicap. Stark won, Miller was second, and Ranney third.

In January, 1894, a second tournament at the

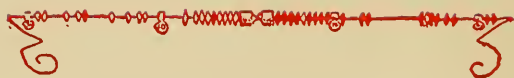


14-inch balk-line game was organized (under the same conditions) by George F. Slosson. The contestants were Messrs. J. B. Stark, A. B. Miller, Frederick Oakes, Frank A. Keeney, Harry Dodd and A. L. Ranney. Stark won, Oakes was second, and Keeney third.

In February, 1895, a tournament was held in Chicago for the Amateur Championship of Illinois, at the 14-inch balk-line game. The following score is of interest. It is given in a book entitled "Billiards—Old and New," by John A. Thatcher of Chicago:

NAME OF PLAYER	WON	LOST	SINGLE AVERAGE	GRAND AVERAGE	RUN
C. E. ELLISON.....	7	0	10.00	7.75	74
FRANK RICE.....	6	1	9.00	5.80	59
WM. KELLOGG.....	4	3	6.50	4.75	34
THOS. NOLAN.....	3	4	5.00	3.60	39
MR. GOODWIN.....	3	4	6.00	4.00	46
MR. ADAMS.....	4	3	6.50	4.40	36
EDWARD REIN.....	1	6	4.00	3.20	23
MR. BROWN.....	0	7	4.00	3.00	44

It was on this remarkable score that C. E. Ellison became recognized as a possible rival of Martin Mullen of Cleveland, Wilson P. Foss of Haverstraw, N. Y., and Wayman C. McCreery of St. Louis, as an amateur billiard expert.



In 1895, Maurice Daly organized a series of annual "Inter-City and Inter-Club Tournaments" for amateurs, at the 14-inch balk-line game (handicap)—5 x 10 table—standard regulations. This is the score of the first tourney, which was played in Brooklyn:

NAME OF PLAYER	POINTS PLAYED	HIGH RUN	SINGLE AVERAGE	GRAND AVERAGE	RESULT
J. B. STARK . . . . .	300	53	7.16	5.08	Tie between Keeney, Stark and Oakes. After play-off Stark won, Keeney second, Oakes third.
A. B. MILLER . . . . .	250	39	6.10	4.38	
A. R. TOWNSEND . . . . .	350	50	6.80	5.21	
F. A. KEENEY . . . . .	265	41	6.17	4.74	
A. L. RANNEY . . . . .	250	37	5.01	3.83	
F. OAKES . . . . .	250	46	4.60	3.75	

In 1896, the entries to the second of this series and the scores made were as follows (under similar conditions to the tourney of 1895):

NAME OF PLAYER	POINTS PLAYED	HIGH RUN	SINGLE AVERAGE	GRAND AVERAGE	RESULT
J. B. STARK . . . . .	270	53	10.23	5.56	Won by Stark. 3 ties for second, third and fourth between Gardner Keeney Poggenburg.
A. R. TOWNSEND . . . . .	325	57	8.80	5.87	
EDW. GARDNER . . . . .	250	34	5.70	4.34	
FERD. POGGENBURG . . . . .	200	36	5.13	4.00	
A. L. RANNEY . . . . .	210	39	4.25	3.59	
FRANK A. KEENEY . . . . .	240	42	5.72	4.68	
A. B. MILLER . . . . .	240	44	6.13	4.32	



In 1897 and 1898, similar tourneys were again organized and held under the auspices of Maurice Daly. That of 1897 was won by Wm. Barnard of Brooklyn. That of 1898 ended in a triple tie and was won by J. B. Stark, with F. A. Keeney second, and Ferd. Poggenburg third. Stark's grand average was 5.93, Keeney's 5.89, and Poggenburg's 4.70.

In November, 1897, the "Amateur Athletic Union of the United States" wisely decided to place amateur billiards under its control; thus giving billiards a national body to regulate its rules and tournaments, as well as to determine the standing, character, and qualifications of those amateurs who are ambitious to participate in open tournaments.

**CONTROL OF  
AMATEUR BILLIARDS  
BY THE  
AMATEUR ATHLETIC  
UNION**

This control over amateur billiardists does not apply to any contests within any club when confined to its members. *It is only exercised over those amateurs who play in open competition for prizes.*

The first billiard tournament given under the A. A. U. sanction was held in "Ives' Academy" of New York City, in February, 1898. It was



won by Florian Tobias, with Samuel Esterbrook second, and William Arnold third.

In May, 1898, the A. A. U. "National Handicap" tourney was held in the theatre of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club of New York. It was eventually won by Dr. L. L. Mial, with J. Byron Stark second, and Dr. A. B. Miller third. These three gentlemen tied for first place at the end of the scheduled games; and two subsequent "play-off" contests (of three games each) were required to determine the winner. The following is the score of the tourney:

NAME OF PLAYER	POINTS PLAYED	HIGH RUN	SINGLE AVERAGE	GRAND AVERAGE	RESULT
J. B. STARK . . . . .	300	64	9.10	6.37	2d prize
J. A. HENDRICK..	270	32	4.93	3.52	
C. BAINBRIDGE...	260	21	2.93	2.63	
A. B. MILLER....	250	53	5.87	4.67	3d prize
L. L. MIAL.....	250	50	6.25	4.98	
L. A. SERVATIUS.	250	32	3.08	2.61	

In November, 1898, the second A. A. U. handicap tourney for amateurs was held in "Ives' Academy" of New York City, under the management of Wm. H. Myers. The contestants were three scratch men at 300 points, viz., J. B. Stark, Ferd. Poggenburg and L. L. Mial; also

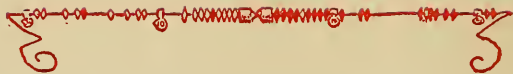


Wm. Gershel at 240 points; Florian Tobias at 215 points; and Wm. Arnold, Walter Douglas and L. A. Servatius at 200 points. Florian Tobias proved the winner; Wm. Arnold was second, and J. B. Stark was third.

The Billiard Committee of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States decided after the close of the "National Handicap Tournament" (played in the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, May, 1898) to divide the amateur billiard experts of America into classes "A" and "B," and to play each class separately without handicaps for National Championship honors. This subdivision of amateurs seemed imperative at that time, because three players in America had attained such acknowledged proficiency in billiards as to practically make a class by themselves; while other very skillful amateurs throughout the various states had aspirations to reach the same proficiency, but had not, at that date, demonstrated that they could confidently hope to equal the "Class A" men in "scratch" contests.

The five gentlemen who now comprise "Class A" in amateur billiards are Wayman C. McCreery of St. Louis; Martin Mullen of Cleveland; C. E. Ellison of Chicago; Wilson P. Foss

**CLASSES IN  
AMATEUR  
BILLIARDS**



of Haverstraw, N. Y.; and J. Byron Stark of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. They are known by all billiardists throughout the country for their remarkable billiard skill, and are close up in speed to the so-called "shortstop" professionals at 14 or 18-inch balk-line game. At certain styles of billiards (such as cushion-caroms or the three-cushion game) McCreery, Mullen, and Foss have frequently held down the three great professionals of America to an even contest.

On December 5th, 1898, the first A. A. U. "National Championship Tourney (Class B)" was played in the theatre of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club. The following is the score:

NAME OF PLAYER	WON	LOST	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH SINGLE AVERAGE	HIGH RUN
J. BYRON STARK, New York	6	0	7.74	10.34	47
ALEX. TAYLOR, Chicago, Ill.	4	2	5.42	7.56	71
J. DEMUN SMITH, St. Louis	4	2	5.50	6.97	64
FERD. POGGENBURG, N. Y..	3	3	5.42	7.60	48
A. B. MILLER, New York..	2	4	4.13	5.00	33
GEO. E. HEVNER, Phila., Pa.	1	5	4.67	5.79	29
J. A. HENDRICK, New Haven	1	5	3.92	4.63	32



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This tournament put Mr. J. B. Stark in "Class A" as an amateur billiardist; his grand average being practically a tie with that of C. E. Ellison, made in Chicago in 1895.

In this tournament, Mr. Stark also made for the second time the *record single average* for any amateur in an open contest of 300 points at the 14-inch balk-line game, viz.,  $10\frac{1}{3}$ . He previously made the same average in the A. A. U. tournament, given in "Ives' Academy" in November, 1898; and he also gained in that tournament the honor of making the *highest record-run* ever made by an amateur in an open contest at the 14-inch balk-line game, viz., *ninety-seven*.

Up to November, 1898, the *record-run* of *seventy-five* (made by A. B. Miller of New York against Mr. Threshie of Boston) had not been beaten.

The following data relating to some of the past performances (in tourneys or matches) of a few leading amateur billiardists may, however, prove of interest to the reader. *The runs and single-averages were not always made in the same year.*

**PAST PERFORMANCES  
OF AMATEUR  
BILLIARD EXPERTS**

# STRAIGHT-RAIL GAME. NOT LESS THAN 300 POINTS

NAME OF PLAYER	RESIDENCE OF PLAYER	RECORD RUN	RECORD SINGLE AVERAGE	HIGHEST RUN IN PRACTICE	REMARKS
W. P. Foss.....	Haverstraw, N. Y.	390	Unknown	395	Particulars unknown to compiler.
W. C. McCreery.....	St. Louis, Mo....	336	Unknown	Unknown	Particulars unknown to compiler.
A. R. Townsend .....	New York City..	257	17.60	428	The <i>highest record-run and average</i> ever made by an amateur in a tourney.
ORVILLE ODDIE.....	Brooklyn, N. Y..	195	15.75	Unknown	Made in the Racquet Club Tourney.
J. A. Hendrick.....	New Haven, Ct..	140	12.00	Unknown	This is Hendrick's grand average in 1000 points, when winning the Amateur Championship of Connecticut.
F. A. Keeney .....	Brooklyn, N. Y..	135	8.50	Unknown	Made against A. R. Townsend.
A. L. Ranney.....	New York City..	132	11.25	137	Made in a match game played in 1896 for a prize.
G. Lee Knapp.....	New York City..	110	11.35	190	Record-run made in a match game.
H. D. Jennings.....	Brooklyn, N. Y..	101	8.70	Unknown	Made in Racquet Club Tourney.
R. J. Maguinness.....	Chicago, Ill.....	94	11.50	Unknown	Made in Racquet Club Tourney.
CLEMENT BAINBRIDGE .....	Buffalo, N. Y....	82	5.40	Unknown	Made in Racquet Club Tourney.

# FOURTEEN-INCH BALK-LINE GAME. 200 POINTS OR OVER

NAME OF PLAYER	RESIDENCE OF PLAYER	HIGHEST RECORD RUN	TOURNEY OR MATCH	HIGHEST RUN IN PRACTICE	REMARKS
W. C. McCREERY.....	St. Louis, Mo....	132	Match	Unknown	Made in St. Louis.
MARTIN MULLEN .....	Cleveland, Ohio.	—	—	247	Made in Cleveland against Edw. Helm, 1898.
WILSON P. FOSS.....	Haverstraw, N. Y.	—	—	168	Made in Haverstraw, 1896.
J. BYRON STARK.....	Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	97	Tourney	Unknown	Highest record tourney-run of America (November, 1898).
A. B. MILLER.....	New York City..	75	Tourney	90	Made against Mr. Threshie of Boston.
ALEXANDER TAYLOR.....	Chicago, Ill.....	71	Tourney	Unknown	Prize-winning run of "Class B" Tourney (1898).
C. E. ELLISON.....	Chicago, Ill.....	74	Tourney	Unknown	Record-run made when contesting for Championship of Illinois.
F. A. KEENEY .....	Brooklyn, N. Y..	66	Tourney	92	Record-run made in Crescent Club Tour- ney (1898).
H. D. JENNINGS.....	Brooklyn, N. Y..	66	Tourney	Unknown	Record-run made in Crescent Club Tour- ney (1898).
A. R. TOWNSEND .....	New York City..	58	Tourney	120	Record-run made in Inter-City Tourney.
J. DEMUN. SMITH.....	St. Louis, Mo....	64	Tourney	93	Record-run made in "Class B" Tourney (December, 1898).
FERD. POGGENBURG.....	New York City..	65	Tourney	137	Record-run made in K. A. C. Champions- hip Tourney.
L. L. MIAL .....	New York City..	50	Tourney	90	Record-run made in A. A. U. National Handicap Tourney.
FRANK RICE.....	Chicago, Ill.....	59	Tourney	Unknown	Record-run made in Illinois Champions- hip Tourney.
WM. BARNARD.....	Brooklyn, N. Y..	52	Tourney	Unknown	Record-run made in Inter-City and Inter- Club Tourney.
FREDERICK OAKES.....	New York City..	48	Tourney	Unknown	Record-run made in Inter-City and Inter- Club Tourney.
A. L. RANNEY.....	New York City..	68	Match	72	Record-run made in a match, 1896.



Among the amateur experts of New York who have won and held the title of "Champion at Billiards" *in the prominent clubs* of New York and Brooklyn, may be mentioned some

# CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

NAME OF PLAYER	GAME PLAYED	CLUB	DATE
FERD. POGGENBURG....	Straight-rail	German Liederkranz	1892-93-94-96-97
FRED'K OAKES.....	Straight-rail	German Liederkranz	1895
A. C. PALMER.....	Straight-rail	Manhattan Athletic	1889-90-91
A. L. RANNEY.....	Straight-rail	Manhattan Athletic	1892
E. W. ROBY.....	Straight-rail	Racquet	1883
E. J. WARDWELL.....	14-in. balk-line	Boston Athletic	1895-96-97
J. BYRON STARK. ....	14-in. balk-line	Knickerbocker Athletic	1898
FRANK A. KEENEY.....	14-in. balk-line	Crescent	1898
ALEXANDER MORTEN....	Straight-rail	Racquet	1887-88-89
Jos. P. KNAPP.....	Straight-rail	Racquet	1890-91-92
ANDREW MILLER.....	Straight-rail	Calumet	1893
EDW. JEWETT.....	Straight-rail	Union	1886-88
G. LEE KNAPP.....	Straight-rail	Union	1887



names whose best performances have already been given. The preceding table gives further but somewhat incomplete information to the reader from this standpoint.

C. SCHEIDIG.....	Straight-rail	Arion	1895
FERD. POGGENBURG:...	Straight-rail	Arion	1896
WM. BARNARD.....	14-in. balk-line	Montauk	1894
ANDREW MILLER.....	Straight-rail	N. Y. Athletic	1886
H. G. ANGELL.....	Straight-rail	N. Y. Athletic	1887
F. F. MURRAY.....	Cushion-caroms	N. Y. Athletic	1888
M. E. MOORE.....	Cushion-caroms	N. Y. Athletic	1889
W. H. RAYNOR.....	Straight-rail	N. Y. Athletic	1890
H. F. ANDREWS.....	Cushion-caroms	N. Y. Athletic	1891
FRED'K OAKES.....	Straight-rail	N. Y. Athletic	1893-95-96
A. L. RANNEY.....	Straight-rail	N. Y. Athletic	1894
W. G. DOUGLASS.....	Straight-rail	N. Y. Athletic	1897
R. D. RADCLIFF, JR....	14-in. balk-line	N. Y. Athletic	1898
GEO. D. CLIFT.....	Straight-rail	Lotos	1890
FRED BRITAN.....	Straight-rail	Lotos	1889



Doubtless many other open tournaments between prominent amateurs have been played in the past that are worthy of mention here; as well as tourneys for club championships, and private matches of great local interest. But the compiler finds it impossible to verify many of the records, and therefore omits them. In the future it is hoped that the ambitious amateur in billiards will naturally desire to become recognized as a tournament-player. He will then aspire to reach sufficient skill to gain admission as a contestant for National Championship honors in some "Class B" annual tourney. After that he will possibly hope and struggle to pass yet higher up the ladder of billiard fame into "Class A," where he can finally contest with the leading amateur experts of America for that coveted title—"Amateur Billiard Champion of the United States (Class A)."

A. L. RANNEY, M.D.





**THE  
CONTESTANT  
ENTRIES.**



WAYMAN C.  
MCCREERY  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

MARTIN  
MULLEN  
CLEVELAND, O.

WILSON P.  
FOSS  
HAVERSTRAW,  
N. Y.



AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD SUCCESS



WAYMAN C. McCREERY



**M**R. WAYMAN CROW McCREERY of St. Louis has been recognized for many years as the foremost amateur billiard expert of Missouri and west of the Mississippi River. He was born in St. Louis, Mo., on June 14th, 1851; is 5 feet 11 inches in height, and weighs 205 lbs. For years he has been actively engaged in real estate in his native city, and is the Secretary and Treasurer of the Security Building. As a musician he is perhaps even more famous than as a billiardist. For twenty-three years he has had charge of the choir of Christ Church Cathedral, and has been prominent as a tenor soloist. He composed the opera "L'Afrique," which was produced with great success in New York City some years ago.

In 1897, President Cleveland appointed Mr. McCreery as Collector of Internal Revenue of the First District of Missouri.

Mr. McCreery's charming manner and attractive appearance have endeared him to all who know him. In social life many honors have been bestowed upon him. He is a member and Chairman of the Entertainment Committee of the St. Louis Club, prominent in the Country Club, Secretary of the Noonday Club, a genial spirit of the University Club, and President of the St. Louis Cricket Club. He is a leader in all of the prominent social events of St. Louis. He married in 1875, and has three daughters and one son.

As a billiardist, Mr. McCreery won the Amateur Championship of Missouri in 1868. He defended the challenge emblem three times successfully afterward and it then became his property.

He defeated Alonzo Morris (professional) at a game of 100 points of 3-cushions, in 53 innings. He ran a game of 15 points of 3-cushions against Eugene Carter (professional) in two innings; and, against Frank Day, ran a game of 10 points of 3-cushions out in one inning from the lead. His largest runs (in actual contests) are as follows: Straight-rail, 336; cushion-caroms, 54; bank-shots, 12; three-cushion shots, 14; 14-inch balk-line game, 132.

In practice his runs have been much larger at some of these games, but have never been recorded by him.

An amusing incident of Mr. McCreery's billiard experience has lately been published.

It happened that McCreery had engaged to play a game with Frank Maggioli (a professional whose skill is well known throughout America). McCreery had agreed to make the attempt to concede this expert professional the heavy odds of 50 points in 300. Friends of McCreery, believing him invincible in anything he undertook, had wagered heavy amounts on his ability to win. Maggioli had his run of good fortune early in the contest, and when the game stood 238 for Maggioli to 28 for McCreery, the friends of the latter left in disgust.



The following day McCreery was met with chaff on all sides when entering the club, and one of his friends remarked: "Why, Mac, you are good enough to win with amateurs but not with professionals." To this McCreery responded: "Well, I beat my man! What did you want me to do—whitewash him?"

This proved to be the fact. McCreery made 272 while Maggioli was struggling to get the needed twelve points.

The remarkable skill of Mr. McCreery at the three-cushion game has given him a world-wide reputation. For many years he has been considered as the equal of any player in America, professional or amateur, at this special type of billiards, which requires the highest possible grade of technique and certainty of execution. There is hardly a professional player of prominence to-day in this country who has not at some time been forced to acknowledge defeat at Mr. McCreery's hands, at this game.

A prominent billiard critic, in speaking of Mr. McCreery's strength as a match player, lately made the following remark: "The wonderful precision with which McCreery executes one difficult shot after another when the balls are running badly for him in critical stages of the game has often called forth my admiration. No difficulties seem to him insurmountable at times. I have often seen him execute ten or fifteen consecutive shots that demanded skill equal to that

of any professional player before he succeeded in getting the balls under control for a large run. I regard this as one of the strongest factors in McCreery's success as a match player."

In closing, it may be said that Mr. McCreery is an expert in *massé* and draw shots; a remarkable round-the-table player; a superb technician in all the intricacies of balk-line play; and a great general when the game seems in peril.



WAYMAN C. McCREERY



MARTIN MULLEN



**M**R. MARTIN MULLEN of Cleveland, Ohio, has for many years been acknowledged to be the leading amateur billiard expert of Ohio, and he is thought by good judges of the game to be fully the equal (in skill and technique) of any amateur billiardist in America.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on August 22d, 1852; and is 5 feet 10 inches in height. He weighs 175 pounds. He is unmarried.

Like most successful business men, Mr. Mullen has won his way to wealth and social position by indefatigable industry and enterprise. He is a member of the Cuddy-Mullen Coal Company of Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest mining and shipping firms of coal in America. He is a member of most of the social organizations in the city of his birth, and also of the Engineers' Club of New York City. He numbers among his host of friends and enthusiastic admirers most of the prominent coal and railroad men of various sections of this country.

As he travels extensively in connection with his business throughout the Western and Middle States of the Union, Mr. Mullen is widely known by the billiard enthusiasts in almost every city. Whenever a leisure hour presents itself, some prominent amateur or professional is apt to fall a victim to his skill with the cue.

A few years ago, when Jacob Schaefer and Frank C. Ives were giving exhibitions in the West, each in succession tried to defeat Mr. Mullen on

even terms at cushion-caroms, but to their great surprise and that of many others, the amateur proved to be the winner of four games out of five from Ives, and three straight games from Schaefer. Probably there is no one in America who surpasses Mr. Mullen in skill at that type of game.

Those readers who are familiar with the difficulties of cushion-caroms will appreciate how formidable an antagonist Mr. Mullen is liable to be at this style of game when the statement is made that he once made the phenomenal run of sixty-seven without a direct carom. His accuracy in round-the-table play (like that of the other two contestants in "Class A") constitutes an important factor in all contests in which he participates. Never before in the history of amateur billiards have three contestants been brought together who possess so high a grade of technique at nursing combined with such remarkable accuracy in the execution of difficult cushion-caroms. For this reason great zest will be undoubtedly added to these approaching contests by the skill which will be shown by all three contestants when extremely difficult shots present themselves either by accident or design.

In the 14-inch balk-line game Mr. Mullen shows at times great strength in the "balk-line nurse." His knowledge of force and delicacy of touch enable him often to make large runs with little apparent effort.



The writer recalls a game at 14-inch balk-line billiards, in 1896, in which he saw Mr. Mullen make a run of 140, and an average of 25 in 500 points, on a 5 x 10 table. He also remembers a series of practice games which Mr. Mullen played with Ferd. Poggenburg of New York, in the fall of 1898; the grand average made by Mullen in 1600 points was over 15.

A few of Mr. Mullen's largest runs at different styles of game will be given later. While they were mostly made in practice, and therefore do not constitute records, they are quite exceptional.

Personally, Mr. Mullen is a gentleman of imposing figure, and of quiet, dignified reserve. His style of play is particularly attractive. His "dead-ball stroke" is at times remarkably perfect; and in skill at nursing he is certainly the equal of any amateur in America.

No one who knows Mr. Mullen ever questioned his courage or his nerve under the most trying conditions. His friends believe him to be the greatest billiard amateur in America, and many of them have often expressed the desire to see him verify their estimate in actual contests with the only amateurs who can be considered as his rivals—McCreery and Foss.

Mr. Mullen's greatest billiard performances comprise an unfinished run at the "straight-rail" game of 365, against Mr. McCleery (the professional) in San Francisco, Cal.; an average of 10

in 300 points at the cushion-carom game, against Frank C. Ives; a run of 247 at the 14-inch balk-line game, against Edward Helm of Cleveland, in 1898; and an average of 35 in 400 points at the 14-inch balk-line game, against Mr. Cohen of Cleveland, within the past six months. He has run 67 at the cushion-carom game; and at 12-inch balk-line he lately ran a game out with an unfinished run of 231.



MARTIN MULLEN



WILSON P. FOSS



**M**R. WILSON P. FOSS of Haverstraw, N. Y., has for the past ten years been acknowledged as the best amateur billiard expert of the East.

He was born in Fairfield, Me., on April 9th, 1856; is 5 feet 11 inches in height, and weighs 185 lbs.

For many years he has been the President of the Clinton Dynamite Company. For the past five years he has been the President and largest individual stockholder in the Rockland Lake Trap-Rock Company, which under his management has grown to be the largest plant of its kind in America.

His beautiful home is located in Haverstraw, N. Y. He married in 1882, and has four daughters and one son.

As a boy, Mr. Foss showed not only an absorbing interest in billiards, but a wonderful aptitude for the game. Before he was twenty years of age he was the best player in Maine, and in friendly contests had beaten most of the star-players who had visited his state.

He then engaged in the manufacture of hats in South Norwalk, Conn., and for a period of four years ceased even to practice billiards; as the tables were not kept in the best of condition and the associations of the game were not of the best character.

Not seeing a promising future in the hat business, he went to Haverstraw in 1881 and undertook the manufacture of nitro-glycerine and

dynamite, for use on the West Shore Railroad, which was at that time in process of construction.

Upon the completion of this railroad Mr. Foss represented the largest powder company of America for six months in Old Mexico, where he established many resident agencies.

Returning from there, he established in Plattsburg (in connection with the Hon. Smith M. Weed) the Clinton Powder Company, conducting a prosperous business there for three years.

His leisure hours, which were few, were devoted to occasional practice (chiefly in New York City) with the best amateur experts, and often with the leading professional players.

On February 28th, 1886, Mr. Foss experienced a test of his nerve and endurance that probably exceeded any other event of his life.

An explosion of dynamite in his works at Plattsburg, N. Y., converted the entire building in which he stood into minute particles of wood, and deposited himself with the boiler, machinery, etc., on the ice of the Saranac River.

Mr. Foss was badly injured and stripped of all his clothing but his shoes; but he managed to walk far enough to order a telephone message (to allay the fears of his family) before he became unconscious. Over two hundred splinters were subsequently removed from his body, and some portions of his head were badly lacerated.

The ability, wonderful courage and indefatigable industry of Mr. Foss made his subsequent



rise to importance in the business-world rapid, and his success phenomenal.

He controls enterprises of various kinds to-day that are of such magnitude as to be a severe tax upon his strength and energies; and billiards is now but a source of mental relaxation and personal enjoyment.

After the explosion Mr. Foss removed his dynamite works to Haverstraw, N. Y., where he now resides.

The writer well remembers in 1892 when (with only two points personally to go) he watched Mr. Foss, as his adversary, defeat him with a run at cushion caroms of 56. He recalls friendly contests in which Foss gave heavy odds to Arthur R. Townsend at "straight-rail" game, about 1892; another in which he made runs at straight-rail of about 400, in a contest with Jos. P. Knapp; several exciting contests at three-cushions with Alfred De Oro (the champion of pool) in which Foss made the audience wild over his brilliant execution; and an average of 25 made by Foss in a game of 300 points, 14-inch balk-line, against the late Randolph Heiser, in 1893.

Since the 18-inch balk-line game (one shot in balk) has become the test of skill with the leading professionals, Foss has practiced it almost exclusively, and chiefly with George F. Slosson. Within the past year Foss has run 102, 118, and 123 at this extremely difficult game (on a 5 x 10 table).

At the 14-inch balk-line game Foss has run over 100 many times; but he has played the 18-inch balk-line game more, and thinks 168 to be his best run at the former.

Personally Mr. Foss is a man of magnificent physique with hair tinged with gray. Powerfully built and with abstemious habits, perfect muscular development, a cool head and great courage, he may justly be regarded by any one as a dangerous opponent. His execution of hard shots is remarkable, and his position play accurate and at times daring.

The strict sense of honor, of perfect fairness, of right and justice to all, which has made his business career brilliant and successful, must gain for him at all times the respect and esteem of his billiard antagonist, as it has of his rivals in commercial life.

























WILSON P. FOSS





# THE SCOPE.



	MCREEERY	MULLEN	FOSS.	MCREEERY	MULLEN	FOSS.	FOSS.	GAMES WON.	GAMES LOST.	GRAND AVERAGE
MCREEERY.										
MULLEN										
FOSS										
SINGLE AVERAGE								A.A.U. TOURNEY		
HIGH RUN								FEBRUARY. 1899.		



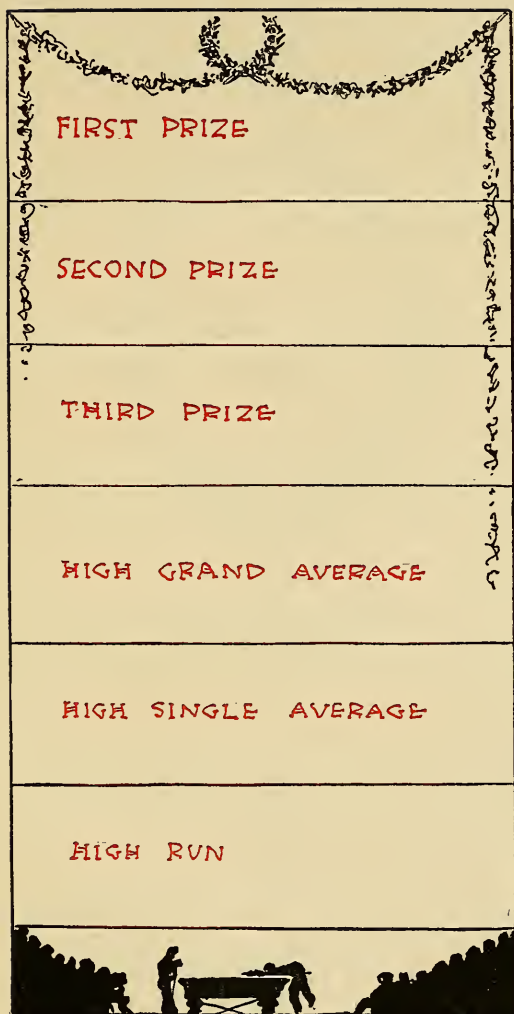




# FINAL AWARDS













## THE PRIZES

The prizes offered to the contestants in this tournament surpass in beauty any previously given in an amateur billiard contest.

The first prize consists of a very large and beautiful silver cup of original design, mounted upon an ebony pedestal, with the figure of a billiard player (in relief) on the front and a laurel wreath surrounding the "Cherry Diamond" on the back. This prize-emblem is donated by the Brunswick-Balke Collender Company.

The second prize is a superb cut-crystal and silver punch-bowl. The top and base are of special design of repoussé work in silver, with the names of each contestant beautifully etched upon it, as well as the event itself, the date of the tourney, and the club-house in which it was held. The bowl is cut in a pattern that gives it extreme brilliancy.

The third prize is a cut-crystal loving cup with three silver handles (staghorn-pattern) and an ebony pedestal. The top is ornamented with crossed-cues, billiard balls, a laurel wreath and the "Cherry Diamond."

A diamond medal (designed by Alfred Brennan, Esq.) is also offered to the contestant that makes the highest grand average of the tourney. All the prizes but the first are donated by the Knickerbocker Athletic Club.

Illustrations of the first, second, and third prizes are given; but a drawing of the medal could not be prepared in time to admit of its reproduction here.

The medal is composed of gold, with certain parts beautifully enamelled. It is two and one-half inches in diameter. In the center of its face appear the Roman "fasces" (a bundle of sticks wound ornamentally with a ribband). This was, in the past, the insignia of power carried before all Roman consuls and prominent officials. On either side of the "fasces," is a shield surmounted by a scroll of white enamel bearing the letters K. A. C. and A. A. U. (in gold) on the left and right sides respectively. The left shield holds the "Cherry-Diamond-emblem" of the K. A. C.; while the right shield holds a palm leaf (the symbol of victory). A row of diamonds surrounds the inner circle of the medal. The outer circle consists of a wreath in greenish gold of oak-leaves and acorns (symbolic of hospitality), with the figures 1899 rising from the wreath in burnished gold.

On the reverse side, are one red and two white billiard balls in enamel and the appropriate inscription.





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